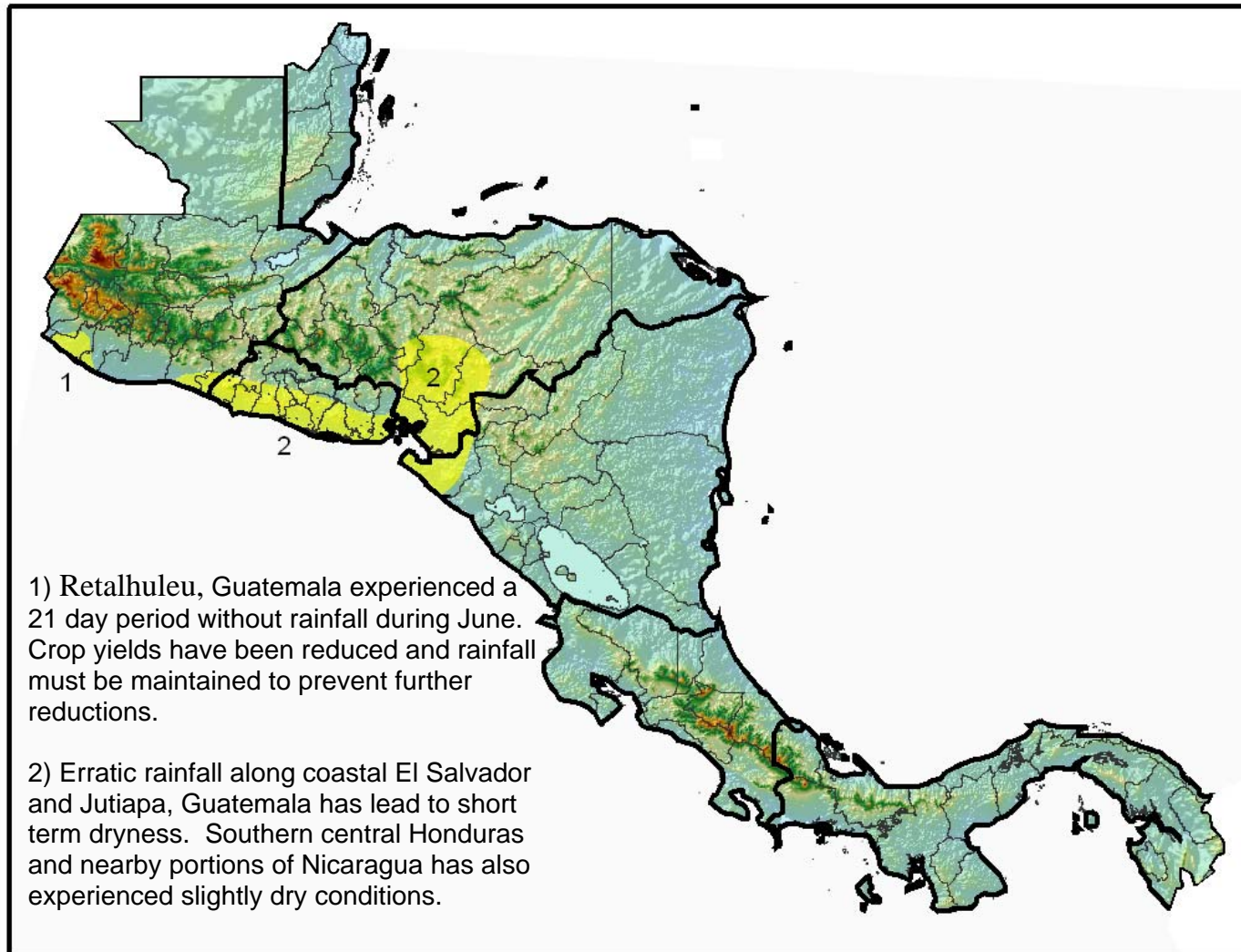


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

July 12 – 18, 2007



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

With the season having begun on time across most of Central America, with near normal totals and distribution, there are only a few areas with problems. Jutiapa and the El Salvador coast have had erratic rainfall that has led to small, but growing moisture deficits. Thus far there are no concerns for crops in the Jutiapa area. However, the crops in the area could be impacted if rainfall patterns do not return to normal. Retalhuleu, however had a 21 day break in the rains. This will likely reduce crop yields. Meanwhile in Izabal, Guatemala drinking water levels have dropped as rainfall totals remain below normal. Just across the boarder from Izabal in Honduras the season began about 20 days late. Impacts from this are expected to be minor should rainfall continue through the season with normal totals. In southern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua, a recent relaxing in the rains could cause problems if the break in the rainfall continues for an extended period.

Concerning La Nina

Oceanic and atmospheric conditions indicate that La Nina conditions could develop over the next 1-3 months. The chances are about 50/50 regarding La Nina development. IMN of Costa Rica has declared that the country is already under the impacts of La Nina. It is common that Central America receives the impacts from La Nina and El Nino before the official criteria for an episode is met.

Water Requirement Satisfaction Index for Maize as of June 30	Rainfall Estimates July 1 – 10, 2007
Source: MFEWS/USGS	Source: NASA

The evaluation of climatological threats of MFEWS include the participation of the central and local offices of MFEWS, NOAA-CPC, USGS, NASA, INETER of Nicaragua, Meteorological Service of Honduras, IMN of Costa Rica, INSIVUMEH of Guatemala, ETESA of Panama, and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Chet.Schmitt@noaa.gov